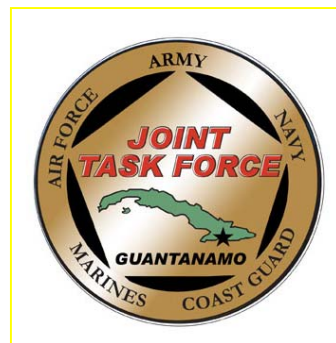




Press Release

Joint Task Force Guantanamo

Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OFFICERS SUSPENDED IN MISCONDUCT INVESTIGATION

GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA—Brig. Gen. Jay W. Hood, commander of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, suspended from command three field grade-level commanders today in connection with an ongoing investigation into allegations of personal misconduct.

An allegation against a fourth officer was referred to Department of the Army in accordance with regulatory guidance.

These allegations do not involve detainees. This personal misconduct investigation is unrelated to Lt. Gen. Schmidt's and BG Furlow's investigation into allegations of detainee abuse.

When the allegations came to his attention, Hood promptly reported them to the United States Southern Command. He asked for an officer from Southern Command to be temporarily assigned to him for the purpose of conducting a thorough investigation of the allegations to determine the facts and to make recommendations to Hood.

The suspended commanders include two lieutenant colonels and one colonel. In order to protect their rights under the Privacy Act, the names of these three officers will not be released.

These administrative suspensions were imposed pending the final outcome of the investigation to preserve the good order and discipline of the units concerned.

"There is one standard for conduct within the JTF," said BG Hood. "Senior officers, especially those in command, are expected to set the example for the troops they lead."

"The mission of the JTF continues," said Lt. Col. Brad Blackner, JTF spokesman.